

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03

H-02 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2571

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14588

PARIS FOR US PERMDEL, UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO, JA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, EMBOFF URGED THAT JAPAN SUPPORT ASSIGNMENT OF ISRAEL TO UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, IN MEETING WITH MOFA UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DIVDIR NAKAMURA AND UNESCO DESK OFFICER CHICHII ON SEPTEMBER 28. NAKAMURA REVIEWED CONFLICTING JAPANESE INTERESTS WHICH LED TO DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON KEY VOTE AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, AND CLAIMED IN ADDITION THAT WEO GROUP HAD NOT YET REACHED CONSENSUS ON ISSUE. EMBOFF PERSISTED THAT CENTRAL QUESTION AT ISSUE WAS NOT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT BUT REAFFIRMING TRADITIONAL RIGHT OF REGIONAL GROUPS, INT HIS CASE AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WEO GROUP, TO DECIDE OWN MEMBERSHIP. ON THIS SORT OF ISSUE, HE CONTINUED, THERE WAS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR JAPANESE VOTE CONTRARY TO ARAB WISHES. EMBOFF REMINDED JAPANESE THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT OF THIS AND OTHER POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTIONS LIKELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER US STAYS IN UNESCO OR NOT.

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2. IN CONCLUSION, NAKAMURA SAID HE MUST CONSULT WITH OTHER FONOFF DIVISIONS CONCERNED BEFORE HE COULD GIVE DEFINITIVE REPLY.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBOFF PHONED DEPDIVDIR NOBORU OF FONOFF FIRST ME DIVISION AND INFORMALLY DELIVERED SAME PITCH. NOBORU SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH EMBOFF'S SUMMATION THAT "THIS IS ISSUE ON WHICH JAPAN CAN DEMONSTRATE (BALANCE) VIS-A-VIS ARAB-ISRAELI SQUABBLING." HE PROMISED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE INTEREST IN MATTER WHEN HIS DIVISION IS CONSULTED BY NAKAMURA'S.

4. NAKAMURA ALSO SAID THAT PRESENT PLAN WAS THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION MICHIO NAGAI WILL HEAD GOJ DELEGATION TO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, UNLESS NAGAI WERE TO DECIDE TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO DIET (HE IS SAID TO BE LEANING THAT WAY) AND GENERAL ELECTIONS WERE CALLED COINCIDENTALLY WITH GENERAL CONFERENCE. DESK OFFICER CHICHII, WHOSE GRIMACES BETRAYED ANTIPATHY TO NOTION OF PANDERING TO ARABS ON REGIONAL GROUP ISSUE, WILL BE MEMBER OF DELEGATION. UNQUOTE
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